

CLAIM LISTING

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:
automatically detecting a change introduced into a software object of a first software subsystem, wherein the software object is used by software objects of a second software subsystem;
determining whether the change is compatible with the software objects of the second software subsystem; and
implementing ~~allowing~~ the introduced change to generate an updated software object if the change is compatible with the software objects of the second software subsystem without introducing any changes into the software objects of the second software subsystem; otherwise,
rejecting the introduced change and generating an error notification.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~further comprising wherein~~ determining whether the change is compatible further comprises determining whether the change is predefined as compatible.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising allowing the change if the change is predefined as compatible.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising issuing a message that the change is not allowed if the change is not predefined as compatible.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising allowing the change if an expert declares the change compatible upon receiving a request for a manual compatibility check, wherein the change is not predefined as compatible.
6. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:
identifying a subset of software objects of a first software subsystem and declaring the subset of software objects frozen;

detecting a change introduced into a frozen software object from the subset of software ~~objects; objects;~~ and prior to allowing the ~~change change~~,
determining with a compatibility check whether the change is compatible with a second software subsystem; and
issuing a notice indicating results of the compatibility check.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the subset of software objects declared frozen includes software objects of the first software subsystem that are used by the second software subsystem.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein frozen software objects are classified to include released objects and restricted objects.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the released objects include software objects that are used by the second software subsystem without restrictions.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the restricted objects include software objects that are used by ~~a small number of software~~ objects of the second software subsystem, the software objects being fewer in number than a threshold.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein an identification of recent changes introduced into a restricted object is provided when software objects of the second software subsystem request new usage of the restricted object.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein classification of the frozen software objects is based on a number of times a frozen software object is used by the second software subsystem.
13. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein a software object is a function module.
14. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein a software object is a data structure.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the software object includes an environment of the function module.
16. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein a software object includes a class and an environment of the class.
17. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein a software object includes an interface and an environment of the interface.
18. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein a software object includes a program and an environment of the program.
19. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the detecting the change comprises automatically monitoring development of software code.
20. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the determining whether the change is compatible comprises determining whether there is a predefined declaration of compatibility of the change.
21. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the determining whether the change is compatible comprises determining whether an expert declared the change compatible.
22. (Original) A computer-implemented method comprising:
performing a global compatibility check of software objects of a first software subsystem by determining whether any changes were introduced into a subset of the software objects of the first software subsystem since the time of a last compatibility check wherein the introduced changes were introduced without obtaining prior approval;
identifying software objects of a second software subsystem affected by an unapproved change, wherein the affected software objects of the second software system are software objects

using at least one software object of the subset of the software objects of the first software system; and

issuing a notice of possible incompatibility between affected software objects and software objects including the unapproved change.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-implemented~~ method of claim 22 wherein the performing a global compatibility check comprises comparing a current version of software code with a version of the software code at ~~[[a]]~~ the time of a last global compatibility check.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the subset of the software objects includes frozen software objects.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the frozen software objects include software objects of the first software subsystem used by software objects of the second software subsystem.

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a changes monitor to automatically detect a change introduced into a software object of a first software subsystem, wherein the software object is used by objects of a second software subsystem, to perform a compatibility check to determine whether the change is compatible with the software objects of the second software subsystem, and ~~the changes monitor to allow the change if~~ to generate a compatibility check report that indicates whether the change is compatible with the objects of the second software subsystem without introducing any changes into the objects of the second software subsystem; and

an error notification module to notify a software developer introducing the change into the software object of the first software subsystem of a not allowed change if the change is incompatible, and otherwise indicating compatibility.

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the changes monitor to ~~allow the change if~~ determine whether the change is compatible comprises the changes monitor to determine whether there is a predefined declaration of compatibility of the change.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the change monitor to ~~allow~~ **the change if determine whether** the change is compatible comprises the changes monitor to determine if an expert declares the change compatible upon receiving a request for a manual compatibility check, wherein the change is not predefined as compatible.
29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising a master system including the changes monitor to detect a change introduced into a software object of a first software subsystem from a plurality of software subsystems.
30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the first software subsystem is located at a server.
31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the second software subsystem is located at a client.
32. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:
a storage medium having stored therein instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause a processing system to perform a method comprising:
detecting a change introduced into a software object of a first software subsystem, wherein the software object is used by software objects of a second software subsystem;
determining whether the change is compatible with the software objects of the second software subsystem; and
implementing ~~allowing~~ the introduced change to generate an updated software object if the change is compatible with the software objects of the second software subsystem without introducing any changes into the software objects of the second software subsystem; otherwise,
rejecting the introduced change and generating an error notification.
33. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 32 wherein the instructions, which when executed by the processor, cause the processing system to perform the method

~~further comprising wherein determining whether the change is compatible further comprises~~ determining whether the change is predefined as compatible.

34. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 32 wherein the instructions, which when executed by the processor, cause the processing system to perform the method ~~wherein the method~~ further comprising issuing a notification that the change is not allowed if the change is not predefined as compatible.

35. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 32 wherein the instructions, which when executed by the processor, cause the processing system to perform the method ~~wherein the method~~ further comprising allowing the change if an expert declares the change compatible upon receiving a request for a manual compatibility check, wherein the change is not predefined as compatible.

36-38. (Canceled)